

CHAPTER XV: "THE MAGNIFICENCE OF ITS LOCATION," 1907-1915

A. Plans and Developments

Before the 1906 earthquake occurred the War Department had decided that a new permanent post for eight companies of the coast artillery should be established on the western part of the Presidio reservation where the artillerymen would be closer to the modern coastal batteries. The infantry would dominate the eastern portion of the reserve. Even before the earthquake, the Quartermaster General Brig. Gen. Charles F. Humphrey, who years earlier had inventoried the Presidio buildings, had debated whether to build the new post according to standard plans or to employ the "Spanish Mission Style." In view of the situation in San Francisco, however, he recommended that construction at Fort Winfield Scott be deferred and that the funds (\$245,000) be used elsewhere.¹

Back in 1876 the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, hosted the centenary of American independence, the first international fair in the United States. The New England exhibit illustrated Colonial Revival architecture. This innovation reached California in the 1880s where architects adapted the concept to the state's architectural heritage, the mission era, "The arcades of Stanford University and Arthur Benton's Mission Inn at Riverside attested to the vitality of Mission Revival in the late 1880s and early 1890s."² The Army's decision to break from tradition and accept Mission Revival for the new post and future construction at the Presidio received additional support in 1907.

In 1906, just before the earthquake, a remarkable army engineer, Maj. William W. Harts, became a staff officer at the Pacific Division headquarters. Following the earthquake and his considerable contributions to the relief of the stricken city, Harts prepared an exhaustive study, "Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," which he completed in January 1907. While calling for a fresh approach to army architecture, he only alluded to the Mission style at that time:

It is well known . . . that the architecture of government buildings on military posts has in the past unfortunately always been of a needlessly plain character . . . the style of buildings used has been intended to conform to some old adopted pattern rather than to

1. Humphrey, April 20, 1906, to War Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

2. Starr, *California Dream*, p. 408.

meet the needs of the site, the comfort of the occupants or the requirements of the climate.

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As to the character of buildings to be constructed, it would seem thoroughly desirable to select buildings of some better architectural design rather than use the old stock patterns followed so long.

San Francisco's climate should be considered – neither extremely cold nor hot. Buildings should not be over two stories in height and officers' quarters should be arranged to get the best effect of the sun.

The buildings, I believe, should all be masonry, either brick, stone, or concrete . . . the officers' quarters should purposely be varied as much as practical. . . . It would be desirable to have all buildings of the same general color and same general style of architecture. . . .

The brick barracks which are already in existence . . . would not harmonize with [concrete] barracks and should be plastered. All roofs should be red tile thus producing a fine combination with the concrete.

Further critiquing army architecture, Harts wrote that skillful, competent civilian architects should prepare the designs.³

A few months later an architect from the Philadelphia firm of Rankin, Kellog, and Crane arrived in California prior to planning and designing new buildings and structures for an Army Supply Depot at

3. William W. Harts, "Report Upon the Expansion and Development of the Presidio of San Francisco, California," January 1907, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

Harts graduated from West Point in 1889 and was appointed a lieutenant in the Engineers. He served on river and harbor projects all over the nation. During the Spanish-American War he built batteries and laid submarine mines at Tampa Bay. An exploding mine severely wounded him. Later, he served in the Philippines. During the year following the San Francisco earthquake, he developed plans to beautify and enlarge both the Presidio and Fort Mason. Not all his concepts were adopted, but he set the tone for these two reservations' future.

Later, Harts took charge of the public buildings and grounds in Washington, D.C. He supervised the construction of the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Memorial, and the Red Cross building. From 1913 to 1917 he served as the military aide-de-camp to President Woodrow Wilson, who said of him, "He has been the most satisfactory officer with whom I have dealt." After America's entry into World War I, Harts served in France and again became President Wilson's aide during the 1918-1919 presidential visit to Europe. He concluded his career as a brigadier general.

Office of the Adjutant General, Appointments, Commissions, and Personal (ACP) File for William W. Harts, Document File 1889, RG 94, NA.

Fort Mason. The visiting architect first inspected the San Gabriel Mission in Southern California, "to gather whatever information relative to the architecture that might in his judgement be advantageously applied to the Fort Mason work." He attempted to visit the Santa Barbara Mission also but heavy rains made that impossible.⁴

At the same time Major Harts gave thought to a new "mission style," concrete, red tile roof, army headquarters building at Fort Mason, the division and department both still occupying temporary facilities at the Presidio. That summer a third voice weighed in in favor of Mission Revival for the future. Maj. Carroll A. Devol, who recently had been the depot quartermaster at San Francisco and was now assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff in Washington, made an inspection trip to San Francisco. After reviewing the drawings for the Supply Depot, he wrote, "The plan of the buildings in the old Spanish style with tile roofs appears to be a good one, and the plant should be an ornament to the Pacific Coast."⁵ Thus, the stage was set for the introduction of Mission Revival architecture at Fort Mason, the future Fort Winfield Scott, and elsewhere in the Bay Area.

Major Harts' report, which may be regarded as the Presidio's first comprehensive master plan, described the strategic importance of the reservation:

It is a site of a great beauty and is probably excelled by no other military post in the world in the magnificence of its location and in its commanding position. It guards the entrance to one of the largest and safest seaports of the world. It embraces an area of . . . nearly 2½ square miles . . . and has within its boundaries elevations as high as 380 feet. By reason of its superb location and command of the harbor entrance, it is admirably situated as a defensive position for the protection of an important harbor and base. Its great natural beauty is seldom appreciated.⁶

He described the terrain as being divided into three parts by ridges. A north-south ridge on which the national cemetery was located separated the coastal batteries from the main post. An east-west ridge separated these two from the Marine Hospital and the area formerly used as golf links [temporarily occupied by a refugee camp]. Harts proposed to replace the main post area with a brigade post having

4. Rankin, Kellogg, and Crane, May 1, 1907, to QMG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

5. Harts, April 18, 1907, to AG, Pacific Division; Devol, September 21, 1907, to IG, War Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

6. Harts, "Report," p. 5.

facilities for two infantry regiments, one cavalry regiment, three light artillery batteries, and a battalion of engineers. He concluded that the existing East and West Cantonments had no real value, being but slightly better than tents. West of the ridge an independent post near the fortifications would house twenty companies of coast artillerymen. The U.S. Army General Hospital would move to the south boundary of the reservation near the 1st Avenue (Arguello) gate, while the rest of the southern area would be held in reserve for a wartime mobilization camp with a capacity of five regiments. The Marine Hospital would go elsewhere. If the Harts plan were accepted, the artillery post, brigade post, and general hospital would have a total complement of 310 officers, 9,833 enlisted men, 2,667 horses, 177 wagons with teams, and 352 buildings.⁷

Before the earthquake the eminent architect Daniel H. Burnham had visited San Francisco to assist in its "Improvement and Adornment." On at least one occasion, in 1904, he went to the Presidio and met with the commanding officer, Col. Charles Morris, and discussed the beautification of the reservation. The 1906 earthquake interrupted Burnham's plans for the city, but he later returned to the Bay Area. Many of his concepts were disregarded in the rush to rebuild, but his influence is evident today in the beautiful Civic Center and the handsome Park Presidio Boulevard that joins the Presidio and Golden Gate Park. Burnham also prepared a plan and recommendations for the beautification of the Presidio itself, which Harts included in his report:

In view of the growing importance of the Presidio, and of its natural topographical advantages, everything possible should be done, with government cooperation, to make it a monument to the United States Army.

* * * *

[The plan] includes the enlargement of the present parade and the location of post headquarters centrally on its main axis, also the creation of a vast drill ground [in the Lower Presidio] . . .

It is proposed also to create a great terrace on the west commanding the unrivaled view of the Golden Gate.⁸

7. *Ibid*, pp. 9-13 and 16.

8. *Ibid*, pp. 8-9; Charles Moore, *Daniel H. Burnham, Architect Planner of Cities*, 2 vols. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1921), 1:230-236, and 2:2-3; Starr, *California Dream*, pp. 290-293.

Harts too envisioned a vast drill ground in the Lower Presidio and the removal of the life saving station from that area to the Pacific shore. He said that the lower ground collected large shallow lakes in the rainy season making it disagreeable and unhealthy. He proposed a concrete retaining wall along the bay shore and reclaiming the area by filling. The east end nearest Lyon Street would contain a large complex of stables and a corral. At present the area had little value; reclaimed the land would be worth \$2.6 million.⁹

Other elements in Harts' designs called for the elimination of fences in residential areas, remodeling the quarry near Greenwich Street into an athletic field with spectator seating on the slopes, increasing the height of the masonry boundary wall by adding an iron fence 4½ feet high along the wall to exclude trespassers and restrain escaping stock, extending the cable railroad that entered at Greenwich Street to the Lower Presidio where it would parallel the south side of the proposed drill ground. ("Since the earthquake, it appears that the Presidio & Ferries R.R. Co. propose to operate their lines in the future by electricity.")¹⁰

Between January 1907 and mid-1912, when Fort Winfield Scott became a separate and independent post, the Presidio's strength grew steadily. In January 1907, 46 officers and 1,484 men reported for duty. In May 1912 these figures had increased to 72 officers and 2,129 enlisted men. At the beginning of the period the garrison consisted of two companies of infantry, three batteries of field artillery, eight companies of coast artillery, and four troops of cavalry. By 1912 the field artillery units had transferred, the cavalry remained at four troops for patrolling the national parks, while both the infantry and coast artillery had grown to about ten companies each. Of the several infantry regiments assigned to the Presidio during the period, the arrival of the 30th Infantry in the summer of 1909 caused considerable new construction at the main post.¹¹

Before then new construction resulted in improvements in several areas of the Presidio. In 1907-1908 the construction quartermaster completed work on a new wharf (984) at Fort Point where army engineers

9. Harts, "Report," pp. 57-59.

10. *Ibid.*, pp. 77 and 84-87.

11. PSF, Post Returns, 1907-1912. A battalion of the 30th Infantry had organized at the Presidio in 1901 just before transferring to the Philippines. In 1907 the regiment came through the Presidio in preparation for a second tour in the Philippines. Mahon and Danysh, *Infantry*, pp. 531-540.

were constructing a submarine mine depot. Called the Torpedo Wharf, it measured 20 feet by 250 feet with an ell 40 feet by 80 feet. The cost amounted to \$6,782. Other construction in 1908 included a bridge over Lobos Creek near the water pumping plant (\$1,347); a Signal Corps storehouse and shed near the Presidio wharf (\$3,300); and a bandstand at the main post (\$483).

In 1908 the Coast Artillery pointed out that a new seawall, 500 feet in length, extending from the granite-block seawall the Engineers had built to protect the fort at Fort Point to the new torpedo wharf was required. The granite seawall remained in good shape but the old timber bulkhead extending eastward had rotted out. A year later the post quartermaster estimated that a concrete seawall's cost would be about \$21,000. Another year passed and the Engineer Department stated that if the Quartermaster Department did not build the wall then the Engineers should take steps to protect the submarine mine depot. All good things take time and in 1917 the Engineer Department allotted \$20,000 to construct the wall.¹²

The Presidio staff discussed Major Harts' recommendation that the swamp in the Lower Presidio be filled. At the end of 1908 the post quartermaster pointed out the quick rate of erosion occurring along the 7,000 feet of shoreline from the seawall at Fort Point to Lyon Street. A fill in this area would add 392 acres suitable for a drill field and for stables. Six months later an inspector general agreed but pointed out that such a project would entail considerable expense. Five years would pass before this project became a reality.¹³

In January 1908 General Funston penned a lengthy letter outlining the barracks situation at all the Bay Area posts. He described conditions at the Presidio, thus providing a rare glimpse of the disposition of the troops. He said that two batteries of the field artillery were well quartered (in the two-story wood frame barracks 86 and 87?). The third battery shared a brick barracks with a company of coast artillery. Most of the coast artillery troops occupied the five brick barracks and because these companies were increasing in size the barracks had become greatly overcrowded. One company of coast artillerymen, however, occupied the temporary "shed barracks" on the bluff behind Fort Point, and two companies occupied

12. G.A. Nugent, February 24, 1908, to Adjutant, PSF, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92; quartermaster PSF, March 15, 1909, Request for Funds; J. Biddle, April 5, to Construction quartermaster, and April 9, 1910, to Chief of Engineers; E. Winslow, February 21, 1917, to District Engineer, San Francisco, General Correspondence 1894-1923 and Press C Letterbooks 1909-1910, OCE, RG 77, NA.

13. PSF Quartermaster, December 1, 1908, to Adjutant; G. Ruhlen, June 19, 1909, to QMG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

some of the twelve temporary buildings in West Cantonment. Also living at West Cantonment were the School of Bakers and Cooks, the Hospital Company of Instruction, and the offices of the Department of California. A signal company was expected at the Presidio and it too would be quartered at the West Cantonment. The garrison's cavalry troops occupied the twelve barracks at East Cantonment, which he described as "comfortable," but their kitchens and latrines allowed "rain, dust, and wind to enter, and they are dark within and congested and unsightly without." Funston recommended a plan be evolved for the permanent quartering and housing of the cavalry troops.¹⁴

The department quartermaster inspected the Presidio buildings in 1909. He noted that twelve mess kitchens had been built in East Cantonment at a cost of \$16,300, but the latrines and bathhouses remained unsatisfactory. Concerning the brick barracks at the main post, the basement lavatories had wet floors and all the plaster walls and ceilings were dirty and needed re-tinting. All five were overcrowded and even the unfinished attics had become barracks; they lacked adequate lighting and ventilation and a fire exit. He inspected the wood frame barracks (682) that Funston had overlooked. He said that the 65th Company CAC occupied it. The building needed paint and some flooring required renewing.

The inspector thought the new post bakery (228) was efficient. It had cost \$11,555. The brick walls, however, had serious cracks from settling. It appeared that the foundations had not been secured and that the building stood partly on fill. He inspected the road entering the reservation from Lombard Street. It was the principal route for wagons and teams and consequently always in need of repair. He recommended that it be paved with concrete and bitumen similar to city streets from the gate, past the general hospital, to the hay house.¹⁵

Probably the result of this inspection, the Army built two new brick barracks at the main post in 1909. At the south end of the row of brick barracks an attractive, 2½ story, U-shaped building (100) cost \$62,300; and at the north end of the row a smaller barracks (106) took shape as the new home for the 3d Band, CAC. It cost \$17,500. The Army built a third barracks at the main post in 1912, at the northeast corner of the original parade (the "lower" parade ground), where the two barracks moved from Fort Point once

14. Funston, January 14, 1908, to AG, U.S. Army, Document File 1800-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Funston did not account for the 1902 barracks (682).

15. R.R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Today's building 567 is probably one of the new kitchens built at East Cantonment in 1909.

stood. This three-story, concrete building, complete with mess facilities and the largest structure yet at the main post was planned to be the permanent quarters for the four troops of cavalry still at East Cantonment.¹⁶

For the first time in its history, the Presidio of San Francisco provided permanent housing for its senior noncommissioned officers in 1909. Three brick duplexes were built parallel to and west of the brick barracks. Sgt. James Smith, Regimental Commissary Sergeant, 30th Infantry Regiment, submitted a request on October 13 for one of these quarters then nearing completion. They were first numbered

161	then	68	finally	124
162		69		125
163		70		126. ¹⁷

The concept of the eastern portion of the Presidio becoming an infantry post advanced a step in August 1909 with the arrival of the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 30th Infantry Regiment. The infantrymen arrived by harbor vessel at the Presidio wharf on August 12. A Presidio command composed of the 3d Band, CAC, and four companies of coast artillery troops greeted the 30th and escorted the regiment to the West Cantonment. The regiment would remain at the Presidio for three years until transferring to the Territory of Alaska in 1912.

While the companies of the 30th went into garrison at the West Cantonment, it was probably the regiment's complement of twenty-five officers, including Col. Charles St. John Chubb, that led to the construction of a handsome group of officers' quarters later called Infantry Terrace.¹⁸ Built between 1909

16. First numbered 220, then 100, and finally 35, this barracks became the offices of the headquarters, Ninth Corps Area, in 1920. In the 1930s a three-story extension was added to the south end. A few years later a roof-top addition was made. The building measured 40 feet by 388 feet. As of 1992 Barracks 100 housed the Sixth Army Band; Barracks 106 and 35, offices of the headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army. R.R. Stevens, August 14, 1909, to QMG, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; U.S. War Department, *Annual Report 1912*, pp. 70-71. See also Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Presidio Physical History Report, Building Inventory*, vols. 1-3.

17. Smith, October 13, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, 1909, RG 393, NA. The staff noncommissioned officers at this time included: two sergeants major senior grade, three master electricians, an engineer, four commissary sergeants, four electrical sergeants first class, four ordnance sergeants, one post quartermaster sergeant, three master gunners, two electrical sergeants second class, and a fireman. PSF, Post Returns, January 1909.

18. The Presidio had three colonels at this time: Col. John A. Lundeen, CAC, commanding officer; Col. Clarence Deems, CAC; and Colonel Chubb. General Orders 52, August 11, 1909, RG 393, NA.

and 1911, the twenty-one residences formed a double horseshoe or a sideways S on a prominence south of and overlooking the main post:

Present No.	Type	Walls	Cost	Completed
325	duplex	concrete	\$15,110	June 5, 1911
326	duplex	concrete	15,179	June 5, 1911
327	duplex	concrete	15,470	June 5, 1911
328	duplex	concrete	15,892	June 5, 1911
329	duplex	concrete	15,185	June 5, 1911
330	duplex	concrete	16,528	June 28, 1910
331	single	concrete	11,774	June 28, 1910
332	single	brick	11,774	June 28, 1910
333	single	brick	11,774	June 28, 1910
335	duplex	concrete	16,528	June 28, 1910
336	single	concrete	9,356	June 28, 1910
337	single	concrete	9,375	June 28, 1910
338	duplex	concrete	16,528	June 28, 1910
339	single	concrete	9,357	June 28, 1910
340	single	concrete	9,357	June 28, 1910
341	single	brick	13,484	March 31, 1911
342	single	brick	11,774	June 28, 1910
343	single	concrete	-	June 28, 1910
344	duplex	concrete	-	June 28, 1910
345	duplex	concrete	-	June 28, 1910

Field grade officers (major-colonel) occupied the single quarters; company grade officers (lieutenant-captain) shared the duplexes; and the Presidio's commanding officer lived in 341. All the quarters had red tile roofs and the architectural style has been described as having some simple classical elements with Mediterranean Revival detailing. The total cost of the project amounted to \$273,784.¹⁹

A 1909 inspection report noted that the Presidio was lighted with mineral oil, but it recommended electric illumination. A few Presidio buildings had been supplied with electricity before 1912, but that year an electric lighting system was completed for the entire post. Other construction in this period included a 6-million gallon, reinforced concrete reservoir (313) on Presidio Hill. Completed in 1912 the 200 foot by 400 foot by 14 foot reservoir cost \$41,950. Its purpose was a water supply for the new Fort Winfield Scott then nearing completion. Associated with it a valve house (310), built with hollow tile, was

19. Harrison, *Physical History*, vol. 3; Quartermater Form 117, U.S. Army Commands 1920-1942, PSF, vol. 8, RG 394, NA; War Department, *Annual Report 1911*, p. 158.

completed at the same time.²⁰

A 1909 description of the cavalry stables in the Lower Presidio painted an ugly picture. The buildings were mere shells, open, without doors. The mangers were in poor shape and the galvanized iron feed boxes unfit for use. Located on low marshy ground the stable floors were frequently under water in winter, and the unpaved yards were too low for drainage. An officer described the picket line as standing on an island. These conditions combined with the preparation of the Lower Presidio area for the forthcoming exposition, resulted in the completion of five substantial, brick stables having slate roofs in 1913-1914. Each 67 foot by 185 foot building had a capacity of 102 animals. Now numbered 661, 662, 663, 667, and 668, the last of these, number 668, became a veterinary hospital having a capacity of 61 animals.²¹

The Presidio acquired two more storehouses in 1910, both toward the south end and on the east side of Halleck Street. Building 222, a concrete structure was designated a quartermaster storehouse but more familiarly called the paint shop. The other, smaller building, made of brick (225) was designated a root house.²²

In 1915 when Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray commanded the Western Division with headquarters in San Francisco, he informed the various posts in the Bay Area that they should all be uniform in their paint colors. He directed that the appropriate colors consist of dark red roofs, bronze-green walls, and white trimmings. Just how far these colors came into being remains unknown. General Murray retired five months later.²³

20. R.R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA; U.S. War Department, *Annual Report* 1912, pp. 70-71; QM Form 117, PSF, RG 394, NA. In 1993 Regional Historian Gordon Chappell recorded two antique, cast iron power poles having small crossarms bearing insulators on the west side of Funston Avenue. Chappell, February 4, 1993, to Chief, Division of Park Historic Preservation, WRO, NPS.

21. R.R. Stevens, June 28, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92; Quartermaster Forms 117, PSF, RG 394, NA.

22. Quartermaster Forms 117, PSF, RG 394, NA. Form 117 concerning building 225 identified it as both a paint warehouse and a root house. Root house or root cellar, a structure, usually covered with earth but not in this case, used for the storage of root crops and other vegetables.

23. T.H. Rees, June 23, 1915, to Chief of Engineers, General Correspondence 1894-1923, OCE, RG 77, NA.

B. Military Exercises

The years between the 1906 earthquake and World War I saw intensified training and increased professionalism in the Presidio's forces. The Army at large initiated exercises in combined maneuvers and large-unit training so far as budgets allowed.²⁴ Both the Presidio's field artillery and cavalry regularly carried out three-day practice marches. In August 1907, for instance, the 1st, 9th, and 24th Batteries of Field Artillery and G and H Troops, 14th Cavalry, carried out a three-day practice march to San Bruno and San Mateo south of San Francisco. A month later the field artillery departed the Presidio to march to Sargents, California, 194 miles, to carry out its annual artillery target practice.²⁵

In 1904 the U.S. Army had developed the Departmental Rifle Range at Fort Barry north of the Golden Gate. From then on all army units in the Bay Area, including the Presidio's Coast artillery, camped at the range once a year to increase the proficiency in small arms target practice. Each contingent camped in tents at Rodeo Valley for three weeks. By 1908 the Army held nation-wide rifle competition. That year the Presidio sent two men to Vermont to try out for the cavalry team. Special orders directed Sgt. Nicholas E. Thornton, Troop H, and Pvt. William H. Spree, Troop E, 14th Cavalry, to proceed to Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, for duty in connection with the selection of a cavalry team in the competition to be held at Camp Perry, Ohio, in August, for the National Trophy and other prizes.²⁶

Atascadero, California, became the favorite site for the army troops to engage in target practice and maneuvers. Located 225 miles from the Presidio it lay just south of Bradley on today's Highway 101.²⁷ In August 1908 the 2d Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, marched out of the Presidio (5 officers, 317 enlisted men, 322 horses, 12 field guns, 10 Medical Reserve Corps (doctors), 3 enlisted men of the Hospital

24. R. Ernest Dupuy, *The Compact History of the United States Army* (New York: Hawthorn Books, 1973), pp. 219-220.

25. Other troops of the 14th Cavalry continued to patrol the national parks. Sargents was located south of San Francisco, between Morgan Hill and Watsonville. The 194 miles must have referred to the round trip. By 1908 the field artillery had returned to letters for the batteries.

26. PSF, Post Returns, 1908; Special Orders 116, May 28, 1908, Post Orders, RG 393, NA. The men received \$1.50 per diem for six days.

27. The vicinity of Atascadero most likely became the Army's Camp Roberts, a 100,000-acre military reservation. Col. Milton Halsey, Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, telecom, September 21, 1993.

Corps, 1 veterinarian, 1 ambulance, 7 escort wagons, and 32 mules) en route to Atascadero for target practice and maneuvers:

August	19.	Presidio to San Bruno,	19.5	
		miles		
	20.	San Bruno to Mayfield,	17.1	miles
	21.	Mayfield to San Jose,	14.9	miles
	22.	San Jose to Morgan Hill,	23.9	miles
	23.	Morgan Hill to Sargent,	16.5	miles
	24.	Sargent to Watsonville,	18.8	miles
	25.	Watsonville to Castroville,	22.6	miles
	26.	Castroville to Chuslar,	20.6	miles
	27.	Chuslar to Soledad,	16.3	miles
	28.	Soledad to King City,	19.3	miles
	29.	Saturday		
	30.	King City to San Ardo,	20.4	miles
August	31.	San Ardo to Bradley,	15.0	miles
		Total	224.9	miles ²⁸

That same year the Presidio's Company E, Signal Corps (two officers, sixty-nine men, and seventy-seven horses) left the post on detached service for American Lake, Washington State, for training and support.²⁹ No sooner had it returned to the Presidio when it received orders for Atascadero along with the 2d Squadron, 14th Cavalry. Both units joined the field artillery already there.

While the coast artillery troops held their target practice at the coastal batteries, they too had annual training away from the guns. In October 1908 they had their annual two-week encampment on the reservation immediately in rear of the batteries, living in tents. Usually the coast artillery troops of the California National Guard joined in this training. In 1911 the Coast Artillery Corps from the Presidio and Forts Miley and Baker formed the 4th Provisional Regiment, CAC, and camped on the Presidio's artillery parade ground in front of the brick barracks and near the brick guardhouse. They organized into three battalions and for ten days received instruction in Field Service.³⁰

28. PSF, Post Returns, August 1908.

29. The training area at American lake eventually became Fort Lewis. It became the site for the Army's early attempt in large-scale maneuvers for the western states.

30. This training was probably based on the text of *The Service of Coast Artillery* published just the year before and authorized by the War Department. PSF, Post Returns, 1908-1911.

Training of a different sort occurred in August 1910 when the 60th and 147th Companies, CAC, traveled to the vicinity of Colfax, Forresthill, and Auburn in the Sierra foothills to fight forest fires. Their efforts involved the use of dynamite. Both outfits returned to the Presidio after six weeks in the field.³¹

Bakers and cooks were not exempt from the marches. The Presidio's Training School of Bakers and Cooks learned well the routes to Atascadero and American Lake where they continued their training in camps of instruction while preparing meals for the encampments.

Theodore Roosevelt has been given credit for demanding that officers of the Regular Army underwent an annual "hundred-mile-ride physical endurance test." In August 1909 Capt. Charles B. Drake, 14th Cavalry, led a detachment to establish a camp near the Burlingame Club south of San Francisco for officers taking the test ride. Col. John A. Lundun had to relinquish his command of the Presidio for three days in order to undergo the test. Presumably he passed.³²

In January 1911 a clerk made an entry on the Post Returns that presaged the Presidio's future:

The 2d Battalion, 30th Infantry, 12 officers, 205 enlisted men, 1 medical officer and 2 enlisted Men Hospital Corps, Major P. O'Neil, 30th Infantry commanding, left Post a.m. Jan. 6, 1911, en route to aviation Field (Selfridge Park) South San Francisco, Cal. for duty in connection with military experiments conducted during the meet. Arrived at Park January 6, 1911. Struck camp January 26, 1911. Arrived at Post Jan. 26.³³

This early air meet near San Francisco witnessed several developments in the early history of aviation in the United States including the Army's carrying out its first airplane reconnaissance exercise, an aircraft's landing on an taking off from a naval ship, the dropping of an aerial bomb by the Presidio's Lt. Myron C.

31. PSF, Post Returns, August-September 1910.

32. Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 207; Lundeen, August 12, 1909, to Department of California, and N.P. Phister, October 14, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA; PSF, Post Returns, August 1909. Phister had to explain why he rode a government horse on the test ride rather than his own mount. He replied that he would purchase the horse as soon as the Army approved the sale.

33. PSF, Post Returns, January 1911. Selfridge Park, or airfield, named for Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, a San Francisco high school graduate, who on duty with the Signal Corps for aviation service at Fort Myer, Virginia, accompanied Orville Wright in a demonstration flight for the Army. The frail craft "wobbled along its launching track, rose, then lurched down to crash in splintered debris." Wright was severely injured; Selfridge died, the first man ever killed in heavier-than-air powered flight. A number of military installations, including coastal batteries and airfields have been named in his honor. *The Army Almanac*, p. 270; Dupuy, *Compact History*, p. 204. Ronald T. Reuther, "Crissy Field from the Beginning," typescript, 1993, p. 1.

Crissy, CAC, and the first successful test of wireless sending a message from the air. One account said that pandemonium erupted in the grandstands when the 30th Infantry soldiers, camped on the infield, attempted to do battle with invading aircraft. The spectators declared the aircraft the victors.³⁴

In 1911 the marches of the garrison assumed a more serious note. Mexico was in the throes of a revolution and concern grew that war with Mexico might ensue. Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, commanding the Pacific Division, received orders to have thirty days' supplies packed and readied for transport without attracting public attention. He formed a provisional brigade and established it on the California-Mexico border. In February the Presidio's cavalry squadron headed south:

Troops A, 1st Cavalry, left for Yuma, Arizona
Troop B, 1st Cavalry, left for Nogales, Arizona
Troop C, 1st Cavalry, left for Calexico, California
Troop D, 1st Cavalry, left for Yuma, Arizona

In March the Presidio's 30th Infantry Regiment (20 officers and 467 men) boarded trains for San Diego. The Training School for Bakers and Cooks soon followed. Not to be left behind, Company E, Signal Corps, departed, also for Yuma.³⁵

At the same time the 30th Infantry returned, a contingent of the Presidio's coast artillery troops left for San Diego where they engaged in night target practice at Fort Rosecrans' coastal batteries.

During the first decades of the twentieth century the U.S. Army endeavored to mobilize large numbers of troops to be employed in the event of national emergencies. At the Presidio in 1912 the "mobile army" stationed at the post and consisting of the 30th Infantry, four troops of the 1st Cavalry, a Signal Corps company, and a field bakery, marched to Fort Winfield Scott where it encamped. An inspector general

34. Stephen A. Haller, *The Last Word in Airfields, A Special History Study of Crissy Field, Presidio of San Francisco, California* (San Francisco: NPS, 1994), pp. 3-4; Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett, "Aviation revolution had its beginnings at Tanforan Track," and "New epoch in warfare heralded at Tanforan," *The Times*, November 1 and 8, 1991.

35. Frederick Palmer, *Bliss, Peacemaker, The Life and Letters of General Tasker Howard Bliss* (New York: Dodd Mead, 1934), pp. 99-100; PSF, Post Returns, 1911; General Orders 12, February 4, and 22, March 7, 1911, RG 393, NA. The 30th Infantry returned to the Presidio in June 1911 on board USAT *Logan* from "Camp Point Loma" (Fort Rosecrans, San Diego).

inspected the troops in field service on April 11.³⁶

In May 1912 the Presidio's strength stood at more than over 2,000 men. A month later fewer than 400 soldiers composed the garrison. The Post Returns contained the following historic remark, "On June 19, 1912, the separation of Fort Winfield Scott from the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., as an independent fort, was effected, all Coast Artillery at the Presidio . . . taking station at Fort Winfield Scott, per GO11, Western Division, June 18, 1912." In addition, the entire 30th Infantry Regiment transferred to Alaska.

The barracks remained empty for only a brief time. In July army transports entered San Francisco Bay bearing the 6th Infantry Regiment from the Philippine Islands and the 16th Infantry Regiment fresh from Alaska. Once again the Presidio became primarily an infantry post. The Mexican border continued to be a matter of concern and as early as August the garrison participated in the "Maneuver Campaign," a two-week exercise.³⁷

During the next two years the Presidio participated in a multitude of training exercises, camps of instruction, practice marches, field maneuvers, and target practice. In December 1913 the 12th Infantry Regiment arrived at the post while the cavalry squadron transferred to the Presidio of Monterey. In January 1914 Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing returned to San Francisco to take command of the Presidio's Eighth Brigade, composed of the three infantry regiments.³⁸

On March 17, 1914, General Pershing reviewed the Eighth Brigade and on the following three days inspected each regiment in full field equipment. On March 21 the brigade marched to South San Francisco, encamped, then returned to the Presidio on March 23. On April 9, Mexican officials seized an American naval launch at Tampico harbor. Twelve days later fighting broke out between a United States shore party and Mexican forces. Secretary of War Lindley Garrison stated to the press on April 23, "The

36. Maurice Matloff, general editor, *American Military History*, Army Historical Series (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1969), pp. 350-352; PSF, Post Returns, 1912. In 1910, Chief of Staff Leonard Wood reorganized the general staff into four divisions: Mobile Army, Coast Artillery, Militia, and War College.

37. PSF, Post Returns, 1912.

38. Pershing officially took command of the brigade on January 22. The customary review had to be canceled because of a storm. *San Francisco Examiner* January 23, 1914. At the same time the Seventh Brigade formed at Vancouver Barracks, Washington. Secretary of War *Annual Report 1913*, p. 71.

three regiments of Infantry at the Presidio of San Francisco will report to General Bliss, together with some artillery from Fort Riley."

Pershing and the Eighth Brigade departed for duty on the southern border of the United States the next day. The 6th and 16th Infantry headed for El Paso, Texas, and the 12th Infantry for Nogales, Arizona. That same year Europe was at war. It would not be long before the Presidio would again be involved in military preparedness on a scale much greater than before.³⁹

C. Corporals, Captains, and Colonels

Many Californians had deep-rooted prejudice against Asian immigration in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This attitude resulted in the exclusion of Chinese immigrants in the 1880s, which caused an increase of Japanese laborers to California as the supply of cheap Chinese labor dried up. Before long anti-Japanese feelings in the state became strident. Japanese-American international relations improved, however temporarily, in 1900 when Japan agreed to deny passports to emigrant laborers bound for the United States. But Japanese laborers continued to make their way to the West Coast usually through third countries such as Canada and Mexico or from newly-annexed Hawaii, and Californians viewed them as an economic and societal threat. The press, the legislature, and San Francisco politicians contributed to the hysteria. (President Theodore Roosevelt referred to members of the California legislature as "idiots" at this time.) A climax of sorts occurred in 1906 when San Francisco segregated Asian school children. Japan quickly protested to Washington.

Meanwhile, the United States' successes in the war with Spain resulted in it becoming an imperial power in the Pacific. Shortly thereafter, Japan's military victories in the Russo-Japanese War led to its becoming a power on the Asian mainland. President Theodore Roosevelt, in an attempt to maintain an equilibrium between Russia and Japan in Asia, mediated to arrange a peace. Both nations accepted a peace conference at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1905. While Japan took over the southern half of Sakhalin Island, Port Arthur, and the South Manchurian Railroad, criticism of the United States arose in Japan because Roosevelt's interference had denied Japan the large indemnity it had sought from Russia.

39. PSF, Post Returns, 1914; *The Army Almanac*, pp. 699-700; Garrison, April 23, 1914, in Lindley Miller Garrison Papers, New Jersey Historical Society, contributed by John Albright, NPS.

Nonetheless, in 1905 U.S. Secretary of State William H. Taft and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Katsura reached an agreement by which Japan agreed to keep hands off the Philippines in return for American recognition of Japan's occupation of Korea.

The segregation of Japanese students in California threatened to impair Japanese-American relations. Talk of war arose particularly in the United States. Even Roosevelt seemed alarmed that Japan might provoke war. Patience prevailed, however, and there came the Gentlemen's Agreement in 1907 – an informal understanding that bound both countries to stop unwanted immigration between them. The president decided the time was opportune to demonstrate American power in both the Atlantic and the Pacific by sending the United States' fleet of battleships on a fourteen-month world tour in 1907. Evidence of the improved relations with Japan became evident when "the great White Fleet" entered Tokyo Bay. The Japanese welcome was enthusiastic, and in the Root-Takakira Agreement of 1908 both nations agreed to uphold the status quo in the Pacific and to respect the Open Door and China's territorial integrity.⁴⁰

The Atlantic fleet arrived off San Francisco on May 5, 1907. Col. John A. Lunden at the Presidio had already announced to the command that when the fleet entered the Golden Gate on the 6th, all duty except the necessary guard and fatigue would be suspended. Extra guards received orders to keep visitors off the gun platforms and all officers and men were enjoined to show the visiting crowds every courtesy. He said that a space near Battery Lancaster would be reserved for Army and Navy officers, their families, and their friends.⁴¹

On the morning of April 6 the Pacific Squadron steamed out to sea, joined the Atlantic Squadron, and together the sixteen battleships entered the Golden Gate in one long line. Newspapers estimated that a million people had gathered on the headlands. Alcatraz's salute guns fired an admiral's salute of thirteen guns and flagship *Connecticut* returned the salute.⁴² California celebrated the grand occasion. This

40. Blum et al, *The National Experience, A History of the United States* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1963), pp. 536-537; E.B. Potter, *The Naval Academy, Illustrated History of the United States Navy* (New York: Galahad, 1971), p. 130; Richard C. Snyder and Edgar S. Furniss, Jr. *American Foreign Policy, Formulation, Principles, and Programs* (New York: Rinehart: 1954), pp. 16-21.

41. PSF, General Orders 11, May 4, 1908, RG 393, NA.

42. The Presidio replaced Alcatraz Island as the designated saluting station in August 1907. War Department, General Orders 167, August 12, 1907.

concentration of naval and military strength at San Francisco Bay demonstrated that America's west coast defense had concentrated there as the United States became a Pacific Power.⁴³

By 1908 the Presidio garrison had climbed to more than 2,000 enlisted men. The number of men assigned to extra and special duty increased proportionately. They included bakers, cooks, and their assistants, butcher, assistant librarian, bandsmen, numerous clerks, company tailors, cow herder, drummers, orderlies, messengers, market men, post printer, switchboard operators, ice men, janitors, mail carrier, school teachers, and the like. At one point the post quartermaster requested that the men assigned to him as lamp lighters be excused from guard duty.⁴⁴

The troops always looked forward to payday. In August 1907 special orders announced that two consecutive days would be necessary to pay everyone starting with the Signal Corps detachment and ending with the prison guard. The paymaster set up his desk in the post gymnasium. Along with pay the men cherished their campaign badges. In 1905 the War Department announced that campaign badges to be worn on the uniform of active duty officers and men would be announced from time to time. All told, badges were authorized for the Civil War Campaign, Indian Campaign, Spanish Campaign, Philippine Campaign, and China Campaign. In 1908, the first year of issue for the Indian Campaign badge, Sgt. Nathan O'Connor, 3d Band CAC, requested a badge for his participation in the Sioux Campaign of 1890-1891. About the same time the commander of the 67th Company, CAC, reported issuing Spanish Campaign badges to his men. Another officer submitted the names of his men who were entitled badges for the Spanish, Philippine, and China campaigns.⁴⁵

Another recognition of accomplishment issued at this time was the marksmanship insignia awarded to expert riflemen and sharpshooters for excellence on the small arms target range.⁴⁶

43. Kinncaid, "History of the Golden Gate," p. 325.

44. Memorandum, Extra and Special Duty Men, Memo 13, February 3, 1912, Circulars 1911-1912; Post Quartermaster, October 8, 1907, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

45. PSF, Special Orders 198, August 13, 1907; N. O'Connor, January 10, 1908, to CO, PSF (O'Connor received his badge, no. 1227, in February 1909); CO, 67th Company, CAC, September 11, 1908, and CO, 159th Company, CAC, February 23, 1909, both to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA. Jerome A. Greene, NPS, telecom, August 30, 1994. These "badges" were actually medals but not referred to as such until recent times.

46. CO, Company M, Signal Corps, September 22, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of

From time to time through the years military prisoners performing labor at the Presidio attempted to escape from the sentries guarding them. On rare occasions such a prisoner would be shot and killed. During this decade two men who attempted escape failed to reach freedom but got away with their lives. In 1909 prisoner Gus Walters made his second attempt within a month by dashing through the Lombard Street gate. The sentry fired wounding Walters in the arm. He entered the general hospital for treatment. Pvt. Ellis E. Blundren guarded the military prisoner John Gross in 1912. Unknown to Blungren Gross had a revolver which he withdrew forcing the sentry to put down his rifle. Gross fired once to scare his guard then ran into the forest. Blungren recovered his wits, chased the man and fired. The second bullet hit Gross in the head. He too entered the general hospital where it was said he would recover.⁴⁷

A potpourri of events affected the lives of enlisted men during these years. Soldiers of the Jewish faith received recognition in 1909 and received authority to be absent during the First Day of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The 3d Band CAC received an invitation to play for the Sophomore Ball at Stanford University. The San Francisco widow of a deceased sergeant requested permission to purchase supplies from the post commissary. The wife of a 30th Infantry sergeant decided to write to Mrs. William H. Taft, whose husband was the new president of the United States, requesting that she and her husband be given quarters on the reservation. The sergeant was reminded that army people did not write directly to the White House. Pvt. James E. Felpling requested a transfer to a Balloon Detachment at Fort Myer, Virginia, while Sgt. Albert K. Buck asked to appear before a board for a promotion to second lieutenant. The advances of technology made an appearance in 1909 when the War Department directed new fingerprints be made of Artilleryman William T. Snyder. A unique report in the records was the one submitted by Master Gunner Hugo A. Nerbeck. Regularly in 1909 he submitted reports on his progress in studying the Japanese language.⁴⁸6

The School for Bakers and Cooks became one of the more popular of the Presidio's institutions. The

(..continued)

Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

47. *The San Francisco Call*, March 2, 1909, and August 29, 1912.

48. PSF, Circular 34, August 16, 1909; R.B. Wheeler, Stanford, October 13, 1908; Mrs. W.B. Boyer, February 19, 1908; Mrs. R.M. Barr, August 30, 1909, to Mrs. W.H. Taft; J.E. Felpling, December 10, 1909; A.K. Buck, December 23, 1909; War Department, March 11, 1909; H.A. Nerbeck, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received, RG 393, NA.

Secretary of War announced that in 1908 twenty-nine bakers and fifty-one cooks had graduated that year. The staff then consisted of one officer (the post commissary), a first sergeant, and five instructors. The school commander asked the commandant of the military prison on Alcatraz if the prison's laundry could clean the school's white uniforms. He also asked permission for himself and ten students to attend a lecture at the University of California, Berkeley. Alas, he did not name the lecture. Fort Shafter in Hawaii requested a graduate baker from the school because its baker was about to be discharged. In October 1909 the school's nineteenth class graduated; and twenty-five privates successfully completed the course in 1911. The post bakery announced a schedule of its services at that time:

Issue and sales of bread – daily
Parker House rolls and tea buns – Tuesday and Friday
Graham and Rye bread – Monday and Thursday
Issue bread sold at the price of flour
Graham, Rye, and Sales bread – 3¢ per loaf
Parker House rolls and tea buns – 6¢ per dozen⁴⁹

During these years a number of bright young officers graced the Presidio's post returns, although not all of them actually served on the reservation. In August 1910, for example, while only twenty-six officers were present for duty, another sixty-five of the Presidio's commissioned officers were absent on detached service (DS) – at the Presidio of Monterey, Atascadero, Colfax, Auburn, Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, San Francisco, all in California; Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; West Point and Fort Slocum, New York; the Philippines; Indiana; American Lake, Washington; Columbus Barracks, Ohio; and the Panama Canal Zone. Of the ninety-one officers, twenty-two eventually became general officers. Among these several became well-known names: Lt. Frederick Mears, 1st Cavalry, builder of the Alaska Railroad; Lt. Hugh S. Johnson, 1st Cavalry, head of the National Recovery Administration during the New Deal era; and Lt. Delos C. Emmons, 30th Infantry, commanding general of the Hawaiian Department and the Western Defense Command at the Presidio in World War II. Present for duty were the Crissy brothers, both in the coast artillery – Dana H. fighting forest fires that month and for whom Crissy Field was named, and Myron S., one of the first men to drop a bomb from an aircraft, in 1911.

Another officer present for duty at that time, Lt. George Ruhlen, Jr., led a detail engaged in military map

49. War Department, *Annual Reports 1908*, p. 163; CO, Training School, January 17, March 16, and October 18, 1909; Post Treasurer, Fort Shafter, July 9, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters received; PSF, Special Orders 176, August 10, 1911; PSF, Memo 18, November 7, 1911, RG 393, NA.

preparation in California (the Progressive Military Map of the United States). His father, George Ruhlen, Sr., had been an army inspector general who had inspected the Presidio in earlier times. Lieutenant Ruhlen transferred to Fort Rosecrans, San Diego in 1911. After his retirement in 1944 Colonel Ruhlen (Jr.) became president of the San Diego Historical Society, taking a great interest in Cabrillo National Monument. His son, the third George Ruhlen, retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of major general.

In 1912 Capt. Charles M. Bundel, 16th Infantry, served as the Presidio's post adjutant. Between 1936 and 1938 he served as Commandant of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. Lt. William H. Simpson, 6th Infantry, also at the Presidio in 1912, became the commanding general of the Ninth Army in World War II. Capt. Malin Craig, 1st Cavalry, on duty at the post in 1912 before transferring to Fort Yellowstone, later became a major general, Chief of Cavalry (1924-1926), commanding general, U.S. Army Caribbean (1928-1930), commandant, U.S. Army War College (1935), and general, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (1935-1939).

In November 1912 Lt. Jonathan M. Wainwright, 1st Cavalry, while carried on the Presidio's returns, served his country on detached service at Fort Riley, Kansas. A World War II hero, Wainwright was captured by the Japanese on Corregidor Island in the Philippines. Two other Presidio officers on detached service later became well known. Lt. Walter C. Short commanded the 16th Infantry's machine gun platoon at the Presidio in 1912 before leaving on detached service to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 1941 he became commanding general of the Hawaiian Department. After the Japanese attack on December 7, Short was relieved from command and he retired in 1942. Lt. Joseph W. Stilwell, 12th Infantry, on the Presidio's returns but on detached service at West Point in 1914, became the chief of staff to the Chinese President Chiang Kai-shek in World War II. Following the war General Stilwell commanded the Sixth U.S. Army with his headquarters at the Presidio. He died at Letterman Army Hospital.

Chaplain Patrick Hart at the Presidio since 1903, retired in April 1908. Chaplain George H. Jones, CAC, succeeded him. Then in 1909 a second chaplain, Marinius M. Londahl, 30th Infantry, was assigned to the post. Two years later the chaplaincy increased to three officers: Maj. Halsey C. Javitt, 1st Cavalry; Capt. George Jones, CAC; and Lt. Marinius Londahl, 30th Infantry.⁵⁰

50. PSF Post Returns 1910-1914. During the time Lt. Walter C. Short, 16th Infantry, was assigned to the Presidio, another Lt. Walter C. Short, 1st Cavalry, also was present.

Around mid-1908 the Department of California headquarters left its temporary offices at the Presidio and returned to downtown San Francisco.⁵¹ General Funston preferred to return to the reconstructed Phelan building but work there had not advanced sufficiently. Consequently, the Army chose the new Chronicle building then owned by M.H. DeYoung, signing a lease for one year. When the year was about to expire, Maj. Gen. John F. Weston, then commanding the department, apparently did not wish to renew the lease but to accept an offer of one floor of the now completed Phelan building at a monthly rental of \$1,650. DeYoung, feeling wronged, wrote Weston saying that Funston had assured him that the Army would undoubtedly stay in the Chronicle building for many years. Funston denied making such a statement.⁵²

Apparently DeYoung won the argument. In June 1911 the newspapers announced that department headquarters, then occupying three floors of the Chronicle building, would move to Fort Miley at Lands End, San Francisco. At the same time a new army headquarters, the Western Division, would be established in San Francisco under the command of Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss.⁵³

The Presidio's 30th Infantry Regiment received new top brass in January 1912 with the arrival of Col. Charles McClure and Lt. Col. William H. Sage. All army officers in the Bay Area attended a reception in the Officers' Club for the newcomers and their wives. Mayor and Mrs. James Rolph, Jr., were the only civilians attending:

The scene was a brilliant one. The light blue of the infantry hosts, the canary of the cavalry, the red of the artillery, the maroon of the medical corps, the orange of the signal

51. The Pacific Division had been abolished in June 1907.

52. M.H. DeYoung, February 8, 1909, to Weston; Funston, February 13, 1909, to J.D. Phelan; R.D. McElroy, February 27, 1909, to Department of California, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

53. The Western Division was established on July 1, 1911, under Brig. Gen. Daniel H. Brush, Bliss having transferred East. The Departments of California and the Columbia came under it.

Department of California - California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Hawaii
Department of the Columbia - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, and Alaska.

Hawaii became a separate Department on October 11, 1911. It is not known if the Department of California headquarters actually moved to Fort Miley. The Western Department, headquarters in San Francisco, replaced the Western Division and the Department of California in 1913. It commanded military operations in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, California, Nevada, Utah, and Alaska. *The San Francisco Call*, June 9, 1911.

corps, mingled with the various shades of the ladies' gowns presented such a dazzling effect as had not been seen in San Francisco since the famous fleet ball at the Fairmont in 1908.⁵⁴

The Officers' Club again came to the public's attention several months later when Congressman Joseph R. Knowland, president of the California Historic Landmarks League, became alarmed that the Army might raze the building. To bring attention to the historical significance of the structure, Knowland, on behalf of the League, presented a bronze tablet to be placed on the building on November 24, 1914, the anniversary of the birth of Father Junipero Serra. Mr. A. Altman, the drawing instructor at Lowell High School, created the tablet.⁵⁵

When General Pershing returned to San Francisco in January 1914, he and Mrs. Pershing took temporary residence in San Francisco. At that time the Presidio's commander, Col. George Bell, Jr., 16th Infantry, most likely occupied the quarters on Infantry Terrace that had been built for the commanding officer (341). Although commander of the Eighth Brigade, Pershing did not assume command of the Presidio. Instead the Quartermaster General directed that the Presidio's former commanding officer's quarters, a wood frame residence (then 22) on the west side of the parade ground (on today's Pershing Square) be remodeled for Pershing's use. The date the building was ready for occupancy has not been determined; it possibly was in the spring after Pershing had left for Texas.⁵⁶

Automobiles again entered the Presidio's records during these years. In 1909 Capt. Andrew Dougherty, 30th Infantry, requested permission to park his car near officer's quarters 43 in West Cantonment. While probably not the first automobile to be owned by a Presidio officer, it was the first to be mentioned as such. In 1913 the department commander, Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray, announced that his auto could be recognized by the "small red silk curtain with two white stars on it," similar to his boat flag, raised on the windshield. When the auto entered the reservation bearing the curtain, personnel were required to salute.⁵⁷

54. *The San Francisco Call*, January 17 1912.

55. *San Francisco Examiner*, November 16, 1913.

56. E.T. Hartman, OQMG, May 11, 1914, to Western Department, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

57. A. Dougherty, October 4, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; PSF, General Orders 26, October 14, 1913, RG 393, NA.

Fire had been a feared enemy at the Presidio since early army days. As of 1910 most of the post buildings were wood frame and some of them had reached the age of fifty years and more. Also of constant concern were the heating fires of coal, defective flues, and wooden roofs. In June 1909 the post surgeon reported a minor fire in the post hospital and requested a board of survey to determine the cause, cost, and effect. December of that year brought two building fires. In the East Cantonment fire damaged a former bachelor officers' quarters then most likely housing married enlisted men's families. A week later the Presidio's post headquarters (then 24) on the west side of the parade ground caught on fire. While no record of damage has been found, injury appeared to be light. Chaplain Londahl occupying permanent quarters on Infantry Terrace (then 174) experienced a fire in the relatively new building.

In 1911 when the 30th Infantry and the 1st Cavalry stood guard on the Mexican border, the Presidio issued fresh orders for fire fighting on the reservation. The garrison then consisted of two batteries of field artillery, eleven companies of coast artillery, and a handful of hospital corps men. Capt. T.Q. Asburn became the fire marshal. Six fire districts comprised the eastern portion of the reservation:

1. Main post, from the BOQ and officers' club north to the post hospital and guardhouse and including the brick barracks.
2. Stables and storehouses north and east of the guardhouse.
3. Infantry Terrace.
4. Fort Winfield Scott (under construction and then called "Artillery Terrace").
5. East Cantonment.
6. West Cantonment.

The assignments involved most of the garrison:

Fire Apparatus opposite headquarters:

Battery A, 5th Field Artillery	hook and ladder truck, 30 men
Battery B, 5th Field Artillery	chemical engine

Fire Apparatus near guardhouse:

60th Company, CAC –	hook and ladder truck, 30 men
	hose cart, 30 men

Fire Apparatus, East Cantonment

147th Company, CAC –	chemical engine, 25 men
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Seven coast artillery companies formed bucket companies. The Hospital Corps provided one medical officer and four litter men. The location of the fire was to be indicated by the fire call followed by the

number of long notes corresponding to the number of the fire district. Should the fire occur at the general hospital or Fort Mason, the post plumbers would turn the proper valve giving high pressure on the mains.⁵⁸

The Officers' Club suffered yet another fire on March 12. Three months later Maj. A.W. Chase, CAC, discovered a fire in his quarters (then 93) in the West Cantonment. An investigation disclosed damage to a pair of dress trousers. Another small fire damaged officer quarters (today 58) on the east side of Funston Avenue in 1913.⁵⁹

Disaster struck the Presidio in 1913. At 11 p.m., April 26, a fire broke out in the quarters of Sgt. 1st Class George H. Schall, Hospital Corps, in the West Cantonment. The building had originally been built to house bachelor officers and had been converted into quarters for married noncommissioned officers. Soldiers turned out to fight the fire and the Presidio requested the aid of the San Francisco Fire Department, which sent engines. The fire destroyed the building and a small structure (then 331) behind it and it also took the lives of Mrs. Schall (a paralytic), her aged mother, and three children: Henry 9, Topsy 7, and Joseph 5.

The solemn funeral, held two days later, was witnessed by two regiments of infantry, two troops of cavalry, a field hospital staff, men from the Signal Corps, and "scores" of women and children. Two chaplains conducted the service and the 1st Cavalry Band provided the dirges. Sergeant Schall had been hospitalized and was unable to attend. In 1914 one more woman died in a Presidio fire, the wife of Sgt. Michael Sanderson, 16th Infantry Band.⁶⁰

58. Apparently these calls did not suffice. Three months later a new system of calls was installed.

1. Main post - Fire Call.
2. Stables, warehouses, wharf, etc. - Stable Call
3. Infantry Terrace - Mess Call
4. Fort Winfield Scott - Officers' Call
5. West Cantonment - Guide right
6. East Cantonment - Guide Left.

Memo 51, July 19, 1911, RG 393, NA.

59. Post Surgeon, June 24, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; PSF, Post Orders 280, December 20 and 27, 1909; Memo 27, April 12, and Memo 32, April 26, 1911; Special Orders 50, March 16, 1912; SO 115, June 2; SO 130, June 24, 1912, and SO 149, July 1, 1913, all in RG 393, NA.

60. *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 27, 1913; Post Returns, April 1913; PSF, Special Orders 93, April 27, 1913, RG 393, NA; *San Francisco Examiner*, August 28, 1915. No

In January 1915 Maj. James G. Harbord, a cavalry officer, arrived at the Presidio of San Francisco with a squadron of cavalry troopers for duty during the Exposition. He had long been a friend of Pershing's, both having served as lieutenants in the 10th Cavalry many years before. Harbord recorded that that summer former President Theodore Roosevelt came out to the fair and General Pershing came up from Texas on leave to visit his family, "the last visit they would ever have together." Pershing returned to Texas.

At 4:20 a.m., August 27, Harbord, in a tent camp on the Presidio parade ground, was awakened by the ominous sound of "Fire Drill." The Pershing residence, only 200 yards away, was on fire. The post commander, Maj. Henry H. Whitney, CAC, also close to the Pershing family, said that soldiers first tried to save the house but that action delayed summoning the city fire department by fifteen minutes.

Twelve people occupied the wood frame residence that night: Mrs. Pershing, daughters Helen (8), Ann (6), and Margaret (3), and son Warren (5); William Johnson, valet to the general; Mrs. Walter O. Boswell and her children, James (6) and William (5) and Mrs. James R. Church, two officers' wives who were visiting; and two servants, Mrs. Irene Raymond and Florentine Pereri. Johnson succeeded in waking Mrs. Boswell and her children, and Private Herd, Medical Corps, managed to get little Warren out of the house.

All except Mrs. Pershing and her three daughters escaped from the fire. Later it was established that the four had been killed by suffocation. Nearly all the rest suffered from shock and minor injuries. An investigation disclosed that the fire was caused by live coals dropping from an open grate upon the floor.

It fell upon Major Harbord to notify Pershing of the terrible event. Thinking perhaps to save the general some shock, Harbord addressed the telegram to Pershing's aide. The aide, however, was absent, and the El Paso operator read the telegram to Pershing himself. The general had been expecting his family to visit El Paso only a few days away.

(..continued)

record has been found in army correspondence concerning the Sanderson fire. The *Examiner* recalled that back in 1890 the actress Blanch Bates, caught in a fire in the Presidio's corral, had been rescued by the troops. The newspaper did specify if the site was the bachelor officers' residence, the Corral, or the mules' enclosure.

Pershing rushed to San Francisco, arriving Sunday August 29. Mrs. Pershing's parents, U.S. Senator and Mrs. Francis E. Warren arrived that same day. Pershing first visited the funeral home then went to the burned-out residence and finally to see his son who had been taken to Letterman General Hospital. Twenty-four Presidio sergeants accompanied the cortege to the train that afternoon and the mourners departed for Cheyenne, Wyoming. In that day's issue, the *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote:

With the demolition of the Pershing home, one of the oldest landmarks of the Presidio disappeared. The house for many years has been the quarters for the commanding officer of the troops at the Presidio, and some very distinguished general officers have lived here.

A year ago it was remodeled to suit the wishes of General and Mrs. Pershing, but its exterior appearance has remained the same through twenty and more years.

Later, however, the *Chronicle* described the "wooden shacks" at the Presidio as a disgrace and shame. The *Examiner* called the residence an old frame house and it criticized the Presidio's inadequate fire fighting set-up and the lack of trained firemen. San Francisco's fire chief, Thomas R. Murphy, advised the Army to reform fire fighting procedures at the Presidio. He called for a permanent fire company drawn from the soldiers, training and drills provided by the San Francisco Fire Department, the trained company to be permanently assigned to the post, and more fire boxes installed.⁶¹

The year 1915 ended with one more fire that destroyed the roof of an officer's quarters (then 19) next to the post chapel, quarters that had once housed the Presidio chaplain.⁶²

As before, pomp and circumstance involved the Presidio's soldiers during these years. A circular appeared in 1911 outlining the duties of the Presidio's two bands (3d CAC and 30th Infantry): 1.

61. *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 28, 29, 31, 1915; *San Francisco Examiner*, August 28, 29, 30, 31, 1915; *Army and Navy Journal*, July 15, 1944. Harbord later recalled that the fog was so thick the night of the fire that he had difficulty determining its location although only 200 yards away. He served with Pershing in France and after his retirement became the president of the Radio Corporation of America. Francis Warren Pershing, raised by two maternal aunts in Lincoln, Nebraska, graduated from Yale University in 1931. Founder of Pershing and Company, stockbrokers, he served in the U.S. Army in World War II, emerging with the rank of major. He died in New York City in 1980, aged 77 years. *New York Times*, June 10, 1980. Presidio fire chief Bill Williams, now retired, believes that this disaster caused the Army to adopt modern fire fighting techniques and hire civilian fire departments at military installations.

62. *San Francisco Chronicle*, December 3, 1915; PSF, Special Orders 195, December 3, 1915, RG 393, NA.

Afternoon concerts between four and five o'clock. 2. Bands to alternate playing at guard mount, Presidio concerts, U.S. Army General Hospital, post dances, and at the division commander's residence at Fort Mason. 3. The bands to play three pieces in the bandstand immediately after guard mount.

On the sixtieth anniversary of the capture of Mexico City, the garrison played host to veterans of the Mexican, Civil, and Spanish-American wars. Battery Blaney (four 3-inch guns) fired a twenty-one gun salute. The 29th Company, CAC, had a special assignment, keeping order at the entrances to the Presidio and at the national cemetery.⁶³

With the transfer of the saluting station from Alcatraz to the Presidio, the Coast Artillery now had the honor of welcoming foreign warships to San Francisco Bay. A Japanese squadron, *Soya* and *Aso*, arrived in March 1909. Later that year the guns saluted German cruiser *HIM Arcona* and Netherlands cruiser *Noord Brabant* on separate occasions.

Land visitors received welcome too. In June 1909 a cavalry troop rode to the Southern Pacific Depot to escort the French ambassador to the Fairmont Hotel. In October another cavalry/infantry force, accompanied by the 3d Band, traveled to Oakland to escort President William H. Taft on his visit to the East Bay. Two years later President Taft visited San Francisco in connection with the forthcoming Panama-Pacific Exposition. On October 13 the troops paraded in the city for the president and Taft visited the Presidio on the following day.⁶⁴

San Francisco loved parades. In 1909 all the Bay Area posts including the Presidio participated in the Portola Festival. Another year, the troops traveled to Oakland for the Grand Army of the Republic festivities. Twice in 1910 the troops escorted his Imperial Highness Prince Tsai Tao, China, in San Francisco.⁶⁵

63. PSF, Memorandum 46, June 23, 1911; General Orders 34, September 12, 1907, RG 393, NA.

64. E.W. Eberle, March 25, 1909, to CO, PSF; CO, PSF, November 7, 1909, to Department of California, Register of Letters Received; PSF, Special Orders 206, September 30, 1909, RG 393, NA; Post Returns, September 1911.

65. PSF, General Orders 29, April 19, and Special Orders 224, September 18, 1910. The prince apparently was a member of the Ch'ing (Manchu) dynasty then in the last years of its rule. In April the name was recorded as Tsai Tao, in September, Tsai Hsun. Of course, there could have been two princes.

Then there occurred the visit of two Japanese spies, one of whom reportedly had a small but powerful camera. When the corporal of the guard brought the two to post headquarters, Col. John P. Wisser immediately dismissed them. They had no cameras and they had been walking where dozens of citizens walked daily. On another occasion, so it was reported, a sight-seeing bus stopped near ancient East Battery. The tour guide began to explain that the obsolete columbiad gun was San Francisco's modern armament when, suddenly, a horde of Asiatic soldiers poured over the breastwork. The startled bus driver rushed to headquarters to report a Japanese attack. He learned later that the Oriental Film Company was shooting a battle scene of the Chinese revolution. The horde turned out to be Japanese-American actors.⁶⁶

Animals, as well as soldiers, composed a part of the post's complement. Horses for the cavalry and the artillery, as well as individual riding horses, were essential to operations. The quartermaster maintained horses and mules for transporting supplies on post or on patrols. Many of the companies, the post hospital, and individuals retained cattle, primarily for the production of milk. Nearly all organizations had their favorite dogs (and other pets), authorized or merely tolerated. It was not unusual for officers to have chickens for a supply of fresh eggs. The Presidio's animals continued to generate correspondence as the new century advanced. The commander of Company A, 30th Infantry, requested the use of an old "rear" behind his company's mess hall for a cow shed. By 1909 a herder took care of cattle during the day, but the owners had to keep them in enclosures at night. (The herder was paid 50¢ per cow per month.) Any loose cows were locked up on a first offense and expelled from the reservation on a second charge. The records disclosed that Company F, 30th Infantry, possessed eight cows and one bull. A circular published in 1909 prohibited the presence of dogs on the parade ground during drills or ceremonies. At one point Washington wrote requesting that a Presidio mule be transferred to the San Francisco National Cemetery. On another occasion the Quartermaster General asked that 500 horses for the 10th Cavalry then in the Philippines be held at the Presidio until an army transport was ready to sail. One day a horse fell into the reservation dump and received severe burns. The poor animal had to be killed to end her suffering.⁶⁷

One sunny day in 1911 Lt. Col. Euclid B. Frick, chief surgeon at the post hospital, wrote to the

66. *The San Francisco Call*, March 22, 1911; *San Francisco Examiner*, April 17, 1912.

67. QMG, January 16, 1907, to CO, PSF; CO, PSF, August 7, 1909, to Department of California; F.B. Shaw, November 22, 1909, to CO, PSF, Register of Letters Received; PSF, Circular 3, January 26 and Circular 15, April 17, RG 393, NA.

commanding officer, 70th Company, CAC, saying in a firm manner that the 70th's bull had raped and impregnated the hospital's cow. Now that the cow would dry up thus causing the hospital to purchase milk on the open market, Colonel Frick enclosed a bill for \$15.00 with which to pay for the milk. The commander of the 70th Company, none other than bomb dropper Capt. Myron Crissy, indignantly replied that his bull had not raped the cow; clearly it was a flagrant case of female seduction. The cow followed the bull to the pasture grounds near the Harbor View resort and remained with him until late afternoon, insisting on repeated service. Inasmuch as she insisted on receiving service five or six times during the day instead of twice as was usually considered ample, Crissy thought that \$5.00 would be just compensation for the 70th Company's bull's services.⁶⁸

D. Panama – Pacific International Exposition

Following the 1906 earthquake San Francisco began rebuilding the ruined city with great rapidity, generally disregarding Architect Burnham's plans for a beautiful city. Some of the leading citizens, however, began promoting the idea of a major fair to announce to the world the city's recovery. Also, an exposition could celebrate the 400th anniversary of Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean (1513) and the Panama Canal, scheduled for completion in 1914. In February 1911 President William H. Taft signed a bill that designated San Francisco as the site for a Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and the planning began. To celebrate the award, San Francisco held a great parade. From the Presidio came a battalion of the 30th Infantry, four companies of the Coast Artillery Corps, and a battery from the field artillery. Charles DeYoung, chairman of the Joint Committee on Reception for the Delegates to Washington, thanked Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss for the Army's participation in the parade and the splendid appearance of the troops.⁶⁹

The site selected for the fair included the bay front lowlands extending from the Army's Fort Mason in the east to the Presidio's Golden Gate headlands in the west, including eighteen acres in the southern portion of Fort Mason and 287 acres of largely unused land in the Lower Presidio. At first the Army was

68. E.B. Frick, September 21, 1911, to CO, 70th Company; M.S. Crissy, to Adjutant, PSF, Haines Papers, Box 35, PAM. It has not been established if this confrontation was resolved by negotiation, a board of officers, an edict from the Department of California, the Inspector General's Office, or an act of the U.S. Congress.

69. Kinnaird, pp. 328-329; PSF, Post Returns, February 1911; Memorandum 13, March 2, 1911, RG 393, NA.

less than enthusiastic about parts of its reservations being so employed. The Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickinson wrote Congressman Kahn that because use of the land would be denied to the government for five years, the sale of liquor on government reservations, and keeping the fair open on Sundays would lead to complications, he could not favor such uses of the reservations. Dickinson resigned, however. His successors, including Maj. Gen. Arthur Murray at San Francisco, favored an exposition, "it was to be the first exposition so located that the Army could take an important part."

The Quartermaster General said the federal government should cooperate in every reasonable way, but certain provisions should be agreed upon:

The four quartermaster warehouses at the Presidio wharf should be removed.

The exposition pay for any changes in the artillery fire control system.

Any seawall or grading be done permanently and left in place.
Any fair building the Army wanted should be retained.

All fair buildings the Army did not want to be removed.

A road be built at Fort Mason from Van Ness to the Army's transport docks at Fort Mason (later named MacArthur Avenue).

The grounds be returned in good condition.

The agreement called for 114 acres of the Lower Presidio to be filled by dredging, bringing realization to the Harts plan of 1907.⁷⁰

To signify its cooperation, the Presidio invited the members of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Society to a review on the upper parade ground in February 1912. Both the 30th Infantry Regiment and a provisional regiment of the Coast Artillery Corps participated, their bands playing and the field and staff officers being mounted. In 1912 the Army further refined its requirements. Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, now the Chief of Staff, wrote Congressman Kahn concerning two items of new construction, not strictly military, very much needed: a seventy-five-foot wide boulevard through the Presidio – \$332,000, and improvements of the reservation's roads, walks, and grounds – \$50,000.⁷¹

70. Frank Morton Todd, *The Story of the Exposition, Being the Official History . . .*, 5 vols. (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1921), 1:133 and 162; J.B. Aleshire, April 5, 1911, to AG, and August 10, 1911, to Chief of Engineers, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

71. PSF, Memorandum 11, February 1, 1912; Wood, July 2, 1912, to Kahn, General

The Army also debated erecting new fences around the coastal batteries. While the Corps of Engineers wanted stout fences topped with barbed wire, General Murray thought all batteries and mine structures should be open to the public. At the end of 1912 Murray, no doubt taking advantage of developments, addressed a letter to the Secretary of War Henry L. Stinson outlining the Presidio's needs before the exposition opened in 1915:

Additional buildings to make the Presidio a brigade infantry post.

Completion of Fort Winfield Scott as a ten-company coast artillery post.

General road and walk work.

A government exhibit building at the exposition (one that later could become a brigade post headquarters).

Model camps at the exposition for army regulars, national guard, West Point cadets, and foreign units.

He added that both the Presidio and Fort Mason were generally dilapidated and ramshackle. He reinforced his views later saying that he had visited the majority of army posts and the Presidio was in the worst condition of any of them by far. Chief of Staff Wood had visited lately and said that when he was stationed there twenty-five years ago, the Presidio was one of the most beautiful posts he had seen and he could not believe how run down it had become. The quartermaster general, however, pointed out that if money was diverted to the Presidio at that time, 150 other posts would suffer. The quartermaster general apparently had the last word.⁷²

Nonetheless, the Quartermaster Department prepared estimates for new construction at the Presidio and Fort Winfield Scott for 1914 amounting to more than \$400,000. Apparently only the brick stables at the Presidio were erected, they being essential because of the destruction of the cavalry stables in the Lower Presidio.⁷³ Ground breaking ceremonies for the exposition at Golden Gate Park in 1911 were followed by

(..continued)

Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA. Wood began his letter, "My Dear McKalm." The boulevard may have been a reference to today's Lincoln Boulevard.

72. Murray, December 16, 1912, to Stinson, and April 15, 1913, to AG, U.S.A., General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

73. Memo for Captain Hines, 1914 estimates, General Correspondence 1890-1914, OQMG, RG 92, NA.

the acquisition of land on the bay front – 305 acres from the military, 208 acres leased from private owners, 122 acres of streets and Lobos Square from the City of San Francisco. Suction dredges pumped mud from the bay to reclaim 114 acres. About 400 buildings were razed or moved. The State of Oregon selected the first site on Presidio land for its building, March 14, 1912. Ground breaking for Machinery Hall occurred on January 1, 1913. Construction and landscaping were nearing completion when war broke out in Europe in July 1914, a week before completion of the Panama Canal. Nonetheless, European exhibits managed to reach San Francisco.

The Panama-Pacific International Exposition formally opened on February 15, 1915, when President Woodrow Wilson threw a switch in Washington. Twenty-three nations, twenty-six states, and New York City had erected exhibition buildings. The Panama Canal was reproduced in miniature at a cost of \$500,000. At the gate to the Court of the Universe stood the Tower of Jewels, 433 feet tall and covered with 130,000 suspended, colored stones resembling aquamarines, emeralds, and rubies. Master landscaper John McLaren from Golden Gate Park and an old friend of the Presidio's designed the large, beautiful gardens.

On the Presidio proper stood the Oregon Building, the Palace of Fine Arts, and the buildings of many of the states. Foreign nations included Canada, the Philippines, Sweden, China, Argentina, Turkey, Italy, France, Norway, Australia, and many others. To the west a large stadium was surrounded by corrals and a dairy building. The U.S. Marine Corps maintained a model camp while a special building housed an enlisted men's club for all the services. At the western end of the fairgrounds, near the 1890 life saving station now in a new location, a large, oval "1 mile trotting" and automobile racetrack occupied a large space. Within the oval open spaces were developed for a drill ground and aviation field, athletic field, and a polo field. Huge grandstands outside the track held spectators. The main roads in the Presidio area included the Avenue of the States, the Avenue of the Nations, and along the bay front the Marina Drive paralleled by the "overfair railroad."⁷⁴

Throughout 1915 all three services – U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps – paraded and drilled regularly. The Presidio's "1st Cavalry Squadron" dazzled onlookers with its drills. The Coast

74. Anne Coxe Toogood, *Historic Resource Study, A Civil History of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore*, 2 vols. (Denver: National Park Service, n.d.), 1:120-128; Todd, *Story of the Exposition*, 1:290, 297, 384, 386, and 389.

Artillery invited citizens to watch the firing of the big guns. Although the submarine minefields had been moved outside the Golden Gate, additional mines were laid within the harbor and exploded to demonstrate their power. In the fall the 24th Infantry Regiment arrived from the Philippines remaining at the Presidio the rest of the year. Part of the Quartermaster's Fontana building east of Fort Mason became a temporary barracks for visiting troop units from the National Guard and Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Enlisted men in uniform had free admission to the exposition and a ball was held for them in the Enlisted Men's Club.⁷⁵

In 1890 Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Anson Mills had been stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco, an assignment they had found most enjoyable. In 1915 the retired couple returned to San Francisco to visit the exposition, "Previous visits to many other international expositions enabled us intelligently to understand the superiorities of the various exhibits. We thought the best showing, outside our own country, was made by Canada, the next best by Germany, and the third best by the Japanese."⁷⁶

The author Laura Ingalls Wilder also visited the Presidio that year:

Yesterday . . . I went to the Presidio, the army reservation where the soldiers live in barracks and in tents. There are beautiful residences where the officers live and a wide cement drive where automobiles and carriages go, with dirt roads for the cavalry. . . . We saw the stables where the cavalry horses and mules are kept. . . . They all looked fat and well cared for. We met soldiers on foot, on horseback, and saw them at work at different things. Everyone seemed to be busy about their affairs and everything was so clean and well kept.⁷⁷

Because of war in Europe the exposition closed its doors in December 1915. Before then M. H. DeYoung, vice president of the exposition, proposed preserving the grounds, drives, gardens, and several of the buildings. But all the structures within the Presidio reservation were removed except the area of the racetrack, the Palace of Fine Arts, the Dairy and Poultry buildings, and for a time the Oregon Building. Concerning the Palace of Fine Arts, Historian Kevin Starr has written, "Maybeck's Palace of Fine Arts

75. After the exposition closed the club building was moved to the Presidio, across from the General Hospital where the YMCA operated it for many years. Later, enlarged, it became an enlisted service club. It was razed ca. 1971.

76. Mills, *My Story*, p. 351. At that time Canada and Germany engaged in a bitter, deadly war.

77. Laura Ingalls Wilder, 1915. Contributed by Stephen A. Haller, NPS.

had mythic dimensions. It expressed to San Franciscans something deep and fundamental about what they had lost in the destruction of their city, and they were loath to lose their symbol which magically regained for them the vanished past." It would remain.⁷⁸

E. Reduction in Strength

When General Pershing led the Eighth Brigade to the Mexican border in April 1914, he left behind a small cadre of three officers and fifty-five men to administer the post. Temporary reinforcements arrived in July when the 30th Infantry Regiment returned from Alaska. But that outfit left in December when it transferred to Plattsburg Barracks, New York. The Panama-Pacific Exposition opened in February 1915 and to lend an army presence the Provisional Squadron, 1st Cavalry (12 officers and 302 men), and the 1st Cavalry Band arrived from the Presidio of Monterey. Since the 1st Cavalry had left the Presidio, the terrible cavalry sheds in the Lower Presidio had been torn down and the cavalry horses now had the solid brick stables (now 661, 662, 663, 667, and 668) for their quarters.

The Provisional Squadron, also called the 1st Cavalry Squadron, performed its drills and parades to the delight of fair goers until it returned to Monterey in November. Also at the Presidio during that time the Army's Field Hospital 2 and Hospital Corps Ambulance Company 2 assisted in whatever medical emergencies came their way.

By the time the last of the cavalymen had left, the entire 24th Infantry Regiment had arrived at the Presidio on temporary duty from its third tour of duty in the Philippine Islands since the Spanish-American War. Once again the Presidio's strength swelled to more than 2,000 personnel. Visitors undoubtedly were impressed with the smart, snappy drills of these black veterans. With the closing of the exposition the 24th Infantry transferred to Fort D.A. Russell in Wyoming. The Presidio's strength declined to four officers and eighty-six men.

The post commanders rotated even more rapidly than the units. Between April 1914 and February 1916

78. Starr, *Americans and the California Dream*, p. 298; Toogood, *Civil History*, 1:128. Architect Bernard R. Maybeck designed the palace. The original structure, built of plaster on chickenwire and wood frame construction, lasted until well after World War II. When it became unsafe, a philanthropic San Franciscan, Walter S. Johnson, donated \$4.5 million to reconstruct it in permanent concrete and steel, which was done between 1964 and 1967.

nine officers held that position. The first of these, Col. Richmond P. Davis, CAC, Coast Defense Commander, Coast Defenses of San Francisco, came over from Fort Winfield Scott when the Eight Brigade departed and remained as temporary commander for three months.⁷⁹

Although the numbers were small in February 1916, big doings lay ahead for the Presidio as Europe approached its third year of war. Meanwhile, the garrison at Fort Winfield Scott had grown to nearly 1,000 personnel. The officers and men of the Coast Artillery Corps were fully prepared to defend the strategically important San Francisco Bay and the people and resources of California.

79. PSF, Post Returns 1914-1916. The huge 16-inch gun battery at Fort Funston south of San Francisco was named in honor of Colonel Davis. While post returns for Fort Winfield Scott have not been located for 1915, its strength during the exposition probably numbered about 30 officers and 1,000 men. The last return available, for December 1913, showed a personnel strength of 27 officers and 930 enlisted men.